

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 OES-03 DOTE-00

TRSE-00 ARA-06 OMB-01 INT-05 SAM-01 /112 W

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R 201056Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0957

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY PUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

CONFIDENTIAL NIAMEY 2348

E.O. 11652: NGDS

TAGS: PFOR, NG

SUBJECT: NIGER CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE

1. IN EARLY JUNE, GON HELD WHAT IS CALLED ANNUAL
CHIEFS OF MISSIONS CONFERENCE IN WHICH PRINCIPAL OFFICERS
FROM ALL ITS DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR MISSIONS BROAD
PARTICIPATED. PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE USED OCCASION TO PRESENT
FIRST OVERVIEW OF NIGER'S FOREIGN POLICY SINCE ASSUMING
OFFICE (NIAMEY 2085) AND NIGER'S REPRESENTATIVES ABROAD
AND MFA PERSONNEL SPENT FULL WEEK GOING OVER POLICY AND
ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.

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2. AT PRESS CONFERNCE LAST WEEK, FOREIGN MINISTER DJERMAKOYE REVIEWED RESULTS OF COM MEETING AND SAID IT HAD SUBMITTED FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS TO GON:

A) BASIC THRUST OF NIGER'S FOREIGN POLICY SHOULD BE TO SERVE DEVELOPMENT OF NIGER.

B) TO COPE WITH PROBLEM OF COMMUNICATIONS WITH OUTSIDE WORLD BECAUSE OF NIGER'S LANDLOCKED STATUS, GON SHOULD DEVELOP NIGER RIVER NAVIGATION, EXPAND AIR TRANSPORT SYSTEM AND EXTEND RAILWAY FROM PARAKOU IN DAHOMEY TO NIGER.

C) GON SHOULD MORE ACTIVELY SAFEGUARD INTERESTS OF NIGERIENS LIVING ABROAD. THESE ESTIMATED TO TOTAL NEARLY FOUR MILLION; IN SUDAN ALONE, NIGERIENS SAID TO NUMBER 800,000. RELEVANT TREATIES AND CONVENTIONS SHOULD BE REVIEWED AND IF NECESSARY UPDATED TO INSURE THAT INTERESTS OF THESE CITIZENS ARE ADEQUATELY PROTECTED.

COMMENT: IN RECENT MEETING WITH FONMIN DJERMAKOYE, I EXPRESSED SURPRISE OVER THIS FIGURE OF FOUR MILLION, WHICH IS NEARLY EQUAL TO NIGER'S POPULATION. WHILE HE ADMITTED ACCURATE STATISTICS NOT AVAILABLE, HE SAID HE WAS CONVINCED THIS FIGURE WAS REASONABLY ACCURATE AND MENTIONED THAT NIGER BENEFITTED FROM REPATRIATION OF FUNDS FROM ITS COMMUNITEIS ABROAD.

END COMMENT.

D) GON SHOULD ESTABLISH A COMMISSION TO EXAMINE NIGER'S BOUNDARIES WITH ITS SEVEN NEIGHBORS AND UNDERTAKE NEGOTIATIONS AS NECESSARY FOR DEMARCATON OF BORDERS.

COMMENT: WE HAD BEEN UNDER GENERAL IMPRESSION THAT NIGER'S BORDERS REASONABLY WELL DEFINED AND FEW DIFFERENCES EXISTED EXCEPT FOR QUESTION OF SOVEREIGNTY OF ISLAND IN NIGER RIVER NEAR BORDER WITH DAHOMEY AND POSSIBLY AREA ADJACENT TO THAT UNDER DISPUTE BETWEEN MALI AND UPPER VOLTA. HOWEVER, DJERMAKOYE TOLD ME THAT NIGER'D CLAIMS ARE BASED ON OLD FRENCH MAPS WHICH CONTAIN LARGE UNDEMARCATED SECTIONS. WHILE THERE ARE NO LIVE DISPUTES, SOME OF NEIGHBORS COULD BE "DIFFICULT" AND

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ALLEGED PRESENCE OF MINERALS IN SOME OF THESE AREAS COULD LEAD TO SERIOUS DIFFERENCES. HE MENTIONED PARTICULARLY NORTHEASTERN BORDER WITH LIBYA WHERE BOUNDARIES NOT WELL DEFINED AS WELL AS BORDERS WITH ALGERIA AND MALI. HE SEEMED LESS CONCERNED ABOUT BORDERS WITH UPPER VOLTA AND NIGERIA. END COMMENT.

E) CONSULATES SHOULD BEESTABLISHED IN ALL COUNTRIES

IN WHICH THERE IS A NIGERIEN POPULATION OF 200,000
PEOPLE.

3. IN RESPONSE TO PRESS QUESTIONS, DJERMAKOYE ALSO
REPORTED THAT:

A) PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE EXPECTS TO ATTEND OAU
MEETING IN KAMPALA IN JULY.

B) AT PRESENT, NIGER LACKS RESOURCES TO ESTABLISH
MISSIONS IN ALL COUNTRIES WITH WHICH IT HAS
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BUT OVER NEXT FIVE YEARS,
HOPES TO DO SO.

C) AS MEMBER OF THIRD WORLD GROUP, NIGER HOPES
DEVELOP CONTACTS WITH LATIN AMERICA. FIRST STEP WILL
BE TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ARGENTINA.

D) NEGOTIATIONS ARE NOW UNDERWAY TO ESTABLISH
RELATIONS AT THE AMBASSADROIAL LEVEL WITH
PORTUGAL.HECK

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